

Because the settlers in Center Creek depended upon farming for their livelihood, irrigation waters were of utmost importance. Some of the earliest community cooperative projects, as well as some of the disputes, transpired because of the need for irrigation water.

The first settlers in the area laid claim to the water in Center Creek and also some of the smaller streams nearby. This meant that new families coming into the area either had to get permission from the older residents to use the water, or look elsewhere for their irrigation needs. The new settlers felt that there was ample water for everyone if it were to be distributed fairly, but try as they would, they couldn't persuade the original settlers to give up much of it.

As a result, many meetings were held in an effort to solve the problem, and it was finally resolved that the newer settlers would go into Center Creek Canyon and look for sites where reservoirs could be built to hold water that was just going to waste. They located and staked out six reservoir sites, and began the task of building the dams. However, the struggles were still not ended because the early settlers then attempted to stop them from filling the dams. Many lively meetings ensued before it was finally decided to organize a reservoir company in 1879 and subsequently the Center Creek Irrigation and Water Company in 1887. Now 72 years later these two companies were consolidated in 1962.

With the organization of the Irrigation Company, the settlement of disputes was left up to the officers and directors, who attempted to be as fair as possible. William Richardson Sr. was the first president of the company. Other officers were Parley Murdock, Archibald Sellers and George Hyrum Sweat.

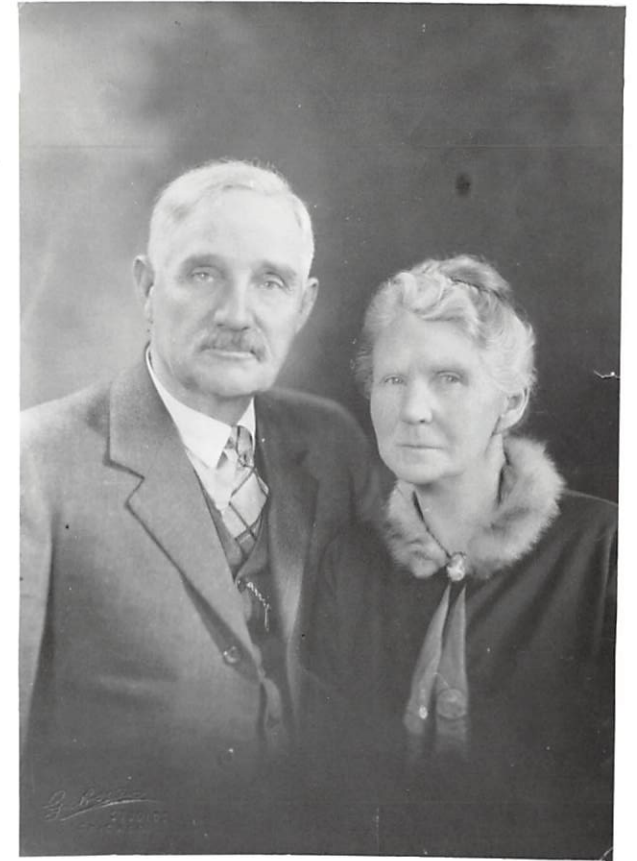
While the community of Center Creek was growing, another community about two miles north of Center began to develop. This was known as Lake Creek, and began about 1877. Robert Lindsay and his wife Sarah Ann, and William Lindsay and his wife Mary, had been living in Heber, but decided to look around for a site where they might establish more permanent homes. They finally decided on a site three miles east of Heber, near a spring, and in 1877 moved from Heber to begin farming the rich soil.

They built log homes and lived close together until about 1883 when they decided it would be much easier to work the farm land if one family lived in the upper section. They drew lots to see who would move, and Robert got the "cut" to move. He built a two-room log house and later a large, two-story home for his family.

As these men found success in farming the Lake Creek land, others soon began to take up homesteads in the area. Some of these homesteaders included Bengt Peterson, James Nash, William Murdoch Sr., William Baird Sr. and John W. Crook.

An excellent sandstone quarry was developed on property owned by John Crook and Herbert Clegg. The stone was used to build many of

Parley A Murdock
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streets as a safety precaution. E. J. Duke and E. Parley Cliff were appointed to meet with club members to discuss the matter. It was some two years and several accidents later, however, before the poles were finally moved.

One of Heber City's leading physicians, Dr. H. Ray Hatch, became the community's mayor in the election of 1915. Chosen to serve with Dr. Hatch on the city council were G. Frank Ryan, four-year councilman; E. J. Duke, Isaac Jacobs, George M. Jorgensen and Parley A. Murdock. Later, Mr. Jorgensen moved from the city and John A. Anderson was appointed in May of 1916 to fill the vacancy. J. E. McMullin was elected recorder and Alfred Sharp was treasurer.

John A. Fortie became mayor in 1918 after winning the election the previous Fall. George Smith, Joseph A. Murdock, J. Fred Giles and Abe Turner comprised the city council, while Sylvan Rasband was treasurer and J. E. McMullin the recorder.

Taking office as mayor in 1920 was E. J. Duke. John H. Miller was four-year councilman with Moroni Moulton, George Smith, J. W. Mahoney and Andrew Murdock two-year councilmen. Douglas Giles was recorder and Emer Murdock, treasurer.

E. J. Duke again served as mayor during 1922 and 1923 with J. W. Giles, Heber G. Crook, L. D. Greenwood and J. Claud Hicken as members of the council. J. E. McMullin was recorder and Elmer Strong, treasurer.

In the election of 1923 J. E. McMullin won the mayoralty race, fulfilling a long time dream. While still a young man he had developed a desire to some day lead the affairs of the city.

"When in my early teens," he wrote, "and attending Central School, I had a deep desire to become Mayor of Heber City someday. I was so impressed with the idea I even chose my councilmen."

When he actually became mayor in 1924, two of his councilmen were among those he had previously considered. They were Jesse R. Nelson and J. W. Giles. Other councilmen were John H. Miller, Albert Dickson and T. Henry Moulton. J. Sylvan Rasband was recorder and Elmer Strong, treasurer.

During his first term, Mayor McMullin spearheaded the drive to organize the Heber Volunteer Fire Department. The area's first motorized fire engine was purchased in 1924 and "initiated" at a fire on Sept. 17, 1925, when hay, grain and straw belonging to Thomas, Erwin and Don Rasband began to burn in a field on the Charleston Road. The fire started from a spark from a threshing machine.

On Sept. 21, 1925 the city council passed an ordinance creating the official fire department and providing for fire inspection. The council also hired John Barnes at \$15 a quarter to sound the fire siren each morning at 7 a.m. as a time regulator.

The first members of the fire department included Frank W. Hardy.